

## Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 CU-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /035 W  
----- 041530

R 190748Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5338

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 5151

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, NG

SUBJECT: AALC LABOR SEMINAR

1. THREE AALC-SPONSORED SEMINARS ON WORKER EDUCATION  
OPENED NOVEMBER 17 IN NIAMEY, ZINDER AND TAHOUA.  
NIAMEY SESSION AND AALC'S ORGANIZING ROLE GETS  
CONSPICUOUS AND HIGHLY FAVORABLE COVERAGE ON  
FRONT PAGE OF SAHEL NOVEMBER 18.

2. REGIONAL AALC REP BART-PLANGE TELLS US LEADERSHIP  
OF NATIONAL UNION (USTN) STILL SMARTING FROM GON'S  
STRONG REACTION TO SEPTEMBER USTN CONGRESS, WHICH  
HAD PASSED A NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS CRITICAL OF  
GOVERNMENT AND, EVEN WORSE, HAD OBSERVED TWO  
MINUTES OF SILENCE FOR EXECUTED COUP LEADER MOUDDOUR.  
AS A RESULT OF THIS EPISODE, FOR WHICH USTN LEADERS  
GOT STERN PERSONAL DRESSING DOWN FROM KOUNTCHE  
GON, ACCORDING TO BART-PLANGE, REMAINS DISTINCTLY  
COOL TO UNIONS. MINISTER OF CIVIL SERVICE AND  
LABOR DID NOT SHOW UP AT OPENING SESSION OF  
SEMINAR. NEVERTHELESS, MINISTRY REP APPEARED  
AND TOLD GATHERING SMC AND GOVERNMENT FIRMLY  
SUPPORT WORKER EDUCATION, EXTENDING "SINCERE THANKS  
ATO AALC FOR ORGANIZING COLLOGUIUM WHICH UNDERLINES  
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SIGNIFICANCE OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE BETWEEN

AALC AND USTN".

3. BART-PLANGE INDICATED THAT SOME OF HIS INITIATIVES IN CONNECTION WITH SEMINARS (TRAVEL OUTSIDE NIAMEY, APPOINTMENTS) SEEM TO HAVE BEEN CURTAILED AS RESULT OF GOVERNMENT MISTRUST TOWARD USTN. AT SAME TIME, AALC PROGRAM OF EDUCATING WORKERS IN FUNDAMENTALS OF UNIONISM, INCLUDING UNDERSTANDING OF ECONOMIC REALITIES AND FACT THAT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WORKERS, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNMENT ARE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT, SEEMS TO BE FOCUSED ON THEMES THAT GON WOULD FIND PALATABLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE. THUS, AT LEAST INDIRECTLY, AALC MAY BE MAKING A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO EASING SOME OF THE TENSIONS THAT HAVE ARISEN RECENTLY BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND UNIONS IN NIGER.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 19 NOV 1976  
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